# Eco-warriors march into camp for protest training

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## Body

If civil disobedience is your thing, head to eastern France this weekend and an "activist camp" could turn you into a hardened eco-warrior.

The 12-day climate camp at Kingersheim in Alsace is designed to teach environmentalists such skills as blockage and resistance techniques, attracting media interest and giving first aid to injured protesters.

In a country where an increasing number of people are signing up to ecological movements, many of them radical, such camps are increasingly popular. This is the third organised by the groups Alternatiba and ANV-COP21 along with Friends of the Earth. Greenpeace and Extinction Rebellion are also involved.

The first camp, in 2016, attracted about 300 people. This summer more than 1,000 people have paid (EURO)12 a day to take part. ANV-COP21 has organised 58 camps this year, most of them lasting a single day.

Zoé Lavocat, of the Kingersheim camp, said: "More and more people are mobilising for the environment and we realised that many wanted to do more than just go on marches."

She said that Britons had joined this year, mostly expatriates in France. "We get neophytes who want to learn everything from A to Z, and more experienced activists who want to deepen their knowledge," she said.

Organisers say they tell participants to eschew violence. They are taught to lock arms to make it more difficult for police to break up a demonstration and to avoid fighting back against arrest. Instead they are told to go limp to make it difficult for officers to carry them away.

Activists are also invited to join France's recent campaign to remove President Macron's official photograph from town halls to protest against his perceived inaction on global warming.

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